Report Summary

Background

In March 2018, the South Carolina Forestry Commission contracted with Strong Performance-Based Solutions, LLC to conduct an employee engagement survey of the agency workforce. The survey was designed in mid-April and administered both electronically and by U.S. Mail from April 27-May 14, 2018 to 372 Full-Time Equivalent and Temporary employees. A total of 268 surveys were returned for a response rate of 72%, an excellent return rate. The survey statements included four demographic statements:

- Job category of the employee (Sr. Management, Management, Non-Management staff, Fire Fighters)
- Employee gender
- Work location (Regions, Headquarters, State Forests, Other)
- Length of service with the agency (0-10yrs., 11-20yrs., >20 years)

The survey also had sixty-six (66) statements using five-point Likert scale multiple choice options ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. These statements were arranged in the following 11 categories:

- Career Development and Training
- Motivation and Commitment
- Compensation, Rewards and Recognition
- Communication and Information Flow
- Work Environment
- Safety and Equipment
- Mission and Direction
- Your Job
- Policies and Practices
- Leadership
- Supervision

In addition, employees were asked five open-ended questions for which they could provide a narrative response.

- What are the three (3) most positive things about working for SCFC?
- What are the three (3) biggest challenges facing the SCFC?
- What are the biggest barriers to your effective job performance?
- If you were the State Forester for a day, what one change would you put into effect that would have the greatest impact on the agency?
- What other comments do you have?

The following is a high-level of analysis of the survey results.

General Themes

The overall response to the survey was generally positive. Forty-one (41) of the sixty-six (66) multiple choice statements received greater than a 50% positive response rate (combination of strongly agree and agree responses). Fourteen (14) of the sixty-six (66) statements received 33% or greater negative response rate (combination of disagree and strongly disagree responses). Seventeen (17) statements received a positive response rate of 70% or higher and only three (3) statements received a negative response rate of greater than 50%.

Positive Responses

Employees felt the most positive about the other employees in their work groups, their supervisors, their job clarity and the match of their personal skills to their work, their work-life balance, their access to information needed to perform their work successfully, the work itself, and sense that safety was a high priority for the agency. The most positive responses to survey statements were as follows (percent **positive** responses):

- 1. I like working with other members of my work group (94%)
- 2. My supervisor respects employees as individuals (88%)
- 3. My supervisor demonstrates honesty and integrity (87%)
- 4. My supervisor trusts employees to do their job (87%)
- 5. My supervisor helps me find solutions to problems (86%)
- 6. My supervisor is available when needed (85%)

- 7. My supervisor gives me open and honest feedback on my performance (81%)
- 8. My job responsibilities are defined clearly and specifically (80%)
- 9. My supervisor clearly communicates performance expectations (79%)
- 10. My supervisor treats all subordinates fairly (78%)
- 11. My job makes good use of my skills and abilities (77%)
- 12. I have trust and confidence in my supervisor (77%)
- 13. I am able to effectively balance my job requirements and other parts of my life (76%)
- 14. I understand SCFC's policies, procedures, and work rules that affect my job (75%)
- 15. My supervisor keeps me well-informed about the things I need to know ((73%)
- 16. I have access to information needed to do my job (72%)
- 17. This organization makes safety a top priority (70%)

Negative Responses

By far the most negative responses related to compensation and rewarding exceptional performance. Other negative responses related to career advancement, internal agency communication, decision-making, and senior management. The most negative responses to survey statements were as follows (percent **negative** responses):

- 1. Under the present pay system, exceptional jo performance is recognized adequately (83%)
- 2. My pay is competitive with the pay offered by similar organizations in my community (81%)
- 3. The organization rewards people for doing a quality job (71%)
- 4. Communication is a two-way street; upper management listens as well as talks (49%)
- 5. I am satisfied with my chances for getting ahead in this organization in the future (48%)
- 6. The SCFC has a real interest in the welfare and satisfaction of those who work here. (42%)

- 7. Senior level management has clearly communicated the future direction of this organization (41%)
- 8. Decisions are made at the levels in this organization where the most adequate and accurate information is available (41%)
- 9. Senior level management is aware of the problems at my level of the organization (39%)
- 10. This organization generally tries to keep employees well-informed (38%)
- 11. Senior level management is open to new ideas and suggestions (38%)
- 12. I have trust and confidence in senior level management (36%)
- 13. I have confidence in the fairness of SCFC senior level management (35%)
- 14. Employees can believe what they hear from senior level management (34%)

Demographic Variances

Overall, female employees at the agency were 10-15% less positive in their responses to the survey statements. They had less confidence in their supervisors and felt less satisfied with internal communication and training they received. In addition, female employees were less likely to think of SCFC as a good place to work, advance and grow. They were significantly less likely to say they were treated with respect (30% positive vs. 61% for males) and could influence decisions (35% vs. 66%). They were less positive about the concept of safety and were much less likely to say that their jobs were well-defined. Lastly, they were less likely to agree that the agency provides equal opportunity, values a diverse workforce and handles harassment and discrimination well.

With regard to an employee's length of employment in the agency, the differences in responses were less significant. Employees with less than 10 years of service found the job more interesting. Employees with between 11 and 20 years of service were generally less satisfied about their job and their work, felt others were less accountable, had less confidence in the application of agency policies and overall fairness, and they were somewhat less positive in their feeling about senior level management. Employees with greater than 20 years of service were generally more positive about training, communication, safety and equipment, policies and decision-making. They also had a more positive outlook on the organization overall, indicating greater satisfaction with their jobs, and the work they do. However, they felt much less positive about whether senior level management trusted employees (18% positive vs. 49% overall).

The variances in responses by work location were quite straight forward. Employees who worked in the State Forests were dramatically less satisfied than the employees in other categories. They were more negative about career opportunities, training, communication, accountability, decision-making, policy application, equipment, and the role of senior level management. In addition, they were less satisfied about their job responsibilities, concerns for employee satisfaction and were less likely to say the agency was a good place to work. In contrast, they indicated that they had higher levels of influence in decision-making and were happier with their supervision.

Data from the regions drove the survey results. Seventy-five percent of the responses were from employees in one of the regions, so there were no significant variances from the overall data. Employees who worked in the SCFC headquarters were generally more satisfied with achieving career goals, communication, safety issues, and the role and actions of senior management. In addition, they were more positive about the agency being a good place to work, had motivated co-workers, and were prouder to be an SCFC employee. In contrast, employees in the HQ were less positive about their agency providing equal opportunity for all employees.

The most interesting differences related to the types of jobs employees held in the agency. People who identified themselves as fire fighters, were less negative about their career opportunities and more positive about training they received. They seemed surer of the agency mission and prouder of their affiliation with it. They were more likely to recommend the agency to a friend as a good place to work as well. They were slightly less negative about pay issues and more positive about communication, recognition, the application of policies and decision-making. They were significantly more likely to indicate that people were held accountable for their performance.

Non-management professionals were more negative about almost everything and did not have a significantly more positive response as a group to a single statement. They were more negative about pay, recognition, supervisory trust, fairness and communication, safety training, decision-making and equal opportunity. Further, they were less likely to indicate that the agency was a good place to work, were less proud to be an SCFC employee, and showed greater job dissatisfaction.

Employees who indicated that they were in a management position were generally more negative than the overall results, but not in every area. They were more negative related to advancement, orientation and training, recognition, supervisory communication and feedback, work-life balance, equipment and tool quality and availability, policies, and their perceptions of senior management. However, they indicated they wanted more information about the agency's goals and objectives, found their jobs more interesting and challenging and work more likely to be positive about agency communication through *Tree Country*.

Senior level management was more positive generally. They indicated higher satisfaction with career opportunities, equipment, and tool availability. They also were more positive about the agency as a good place to work, liked their jobs more, and found their colleagues more motivated than other groups. However, they were more negative about pay issues, internal agency communication, accountability of the workforce, and safety training.

Category by Category Analysis

Career Development and Training

Six statements were asked in this category. Participants responses were mixed about whether working at SCFC had allowed them to progress toward their career goals. Overall, 51% replied positively, but results varied a great deal when looking at different sub-groups. Females in the organization replied positively only 40% of the time. Employees who worked in the State Forests also had a 40% positive response rate. Employees who worked at the SCFC Headquarters replied positively 66% of the time. Not surprisingly, Senior Level Management also replied positively on 68% of the surveys.

Only 26% of those who responded indicated that they were satisfied with their chances of getting ahead in the SCFC in the future. Females and staff who work in the State Forests replied to the survey positively only 13% of the time. Interestingly, employees who identified themselves as "Management Level" replied negatively to this statement 62% of the time.

Employee responses to statements about agency training were consistent overall. Statements related to the adequacy of the orientation for new employees, whether employees got adequate training for their jobs, and whether SCFC provides sufficient training to employees all received positive responses of between 47%-49% and negative responses of between 29%-32%. Female employees were positive in their responses at a rate of only 35-38% on these statements. Employees in the State Forests and those identified as Management were also somewhat less positive.

When we asked employees if the training they had received had been sufficient for them to perform successfully, the responses were more positive than the overall average for all but employees in the State Forests and Management employees. Overall, the positive response rate to this statement was 61%. Fire Fighters and employees who had been with the agency for longer than 20 years, replied positively at a rate of 75% and 73% respectively. So, one may conclude that many employees believe that the training that they personally received was sufficient, but that the training "others" received was less so.

Motivation and Commitment

The survey also asked six statements related to employee motivation and commitment to the organization. Fewer than half of employees (46%) indicated that they were proud to be employees of the agency. Employees in the SCFC headquarters and Fire Fighters were more positive at rates of 62% and 61% respectively. Employees identifying as Management replied positively only 34% of the time. Similarly, 44% of employees were positive in their response to the statement "I would recommend that my friend seek employment with SCFC." Fire Fighters and employees at SCFC Headquarters responded positively on 59% of the surveys. Management employees (27%) and employees in State Forests (22%) were much less positive in their responses to this statement.

Two statements received highly positive responses in this category. Employees throughout the organization were exceptionally positive (94%) in their responses to the statement "I like working with other members of my work group." This is the highest level of positive response the author has ever witnessed regarding this statement in any organization. In addition, 60% of employees positively indicated that they looked forward to coming to work each day while just 15% of employees responded negatively to the statement. These responses indicate a fairly high level of daily employee engagement overall.

One area of concern relates to the statement that asked employees whether their coworkers were highly motivated. Only 50% responded positively and there was considerable variance among groups. Females responded positively at a 34% rate, Management level employees recorded positive responses 38% of the time. Employees at SCFC headquarters were the most positive at 60%.

Compensation, Rewards and Recognition

The responses to the statements related to compensation, rewards and recognition were extraordinarily negative. Only 7% of employees thought the current pay system rewarded exceptional performance. Similarly, 7% positively responded when asked if they believed their pay was competitive to similar organizations in their community. Just 8% positively indicated that SCFC rewards people for doing a quality job. These are among the lowest scores to any employee engagement survey statement that the author has ever conducted and indicate an extreme level of dissatisfaction with compensation in the agency. Dissatisfaction levels at this high level are likely to lead to both employee recruitment and retention problems, especially among employees with less than 10 years of service with the state.

Responses to the two statements related to employee recognition were somewhat more positive. Overall, 45% of employees responded positively to the statement "I receive recognition and praise for good work." Fire Fighters were the most positive at 56%. Once again, employees in the State Forests and those identified as Non-Managers responded more negatively with a negative response rate of 35% compared to 20% for the SCFC overall.

Management level employees were less positive than the overall rate (32%) and the most SCFC Employee Engagement Survey (Spring 2018)

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negative (38%). Overall, 58% of employees responded positively when asked if their supervisor let upper management know about their effective performance. Fire Fighters were once again more positive (68%) while disturbingly, Females were much less positive (43%).

Communication and Information Flow

Responses in this category were decidedly mixed. On the positive side, 72% of the employees at SCFC said they had access to information needed to do their jobs. This was even higher for Fire Fighters (84%) and employees who worked in Headquarters (92%). However, only 51% of Female employees responded positively, indicating a very significant gender gap in responses. This is an issue that should be further explored by Senior Leadership to determine the cause(s) of such a disparity. Responses to the open-ended questions did little to shed light on this type of response.

Employees were generally satisfied with communications from their supervisors. Overall, 73% indicated that their supervisor keeps them informed about things they need to know. Fire Fighters replied most positively at an 86% level. Less positive responses came from Non-Management employees (62%), Female employees (61%) and Senior Level Management (54%). Also, 68% of employees were positive in response to the statement "My supervisor communicates the reasons for important decisions to my work group." Again, Fire Fighters were the most positive (86%), while Non-Management employees (58%), Female employees (50%) were significantly less positive.

Employees were less impressed with the communication from the higher levels of the organization. Only 43% indicated that they thought the organization generally tried to keep employees well-informed while 38% of employees responded negatively to this. Headquarters employees (62%), Senior Level Management employees (59%), and Fire Fighters (54%) were more positive in response to this statement. Management Level employees (33%), State Forest employees (30%) and Female employees (24%) were much less positive. In addition, only 31% of employees overall responded positively to the statement "Communication is a two-way street, upper management listens as well as talks." Nearly half of all employees (49%) responded negatively to this statement.

Employees want more information about the SCFC's goals and objectives. Overall, 92% of employees responded either positively or neutrally to this statement. Management level employees had the highest positive response rate (68%) and employees with Greater than 20 Years of Service (41%) had the least positive responses.

The effectiveness of communication to employees via the newsletter *Tree Country* was mixed. Overall 58% replied positively to the statement. Management Level employees (70%) and employees with Greater than 20 Years of Service (68%) had the most positive responses.

State Forest employees (45%) had the lowest positive response rate. Interestingly, Senior Level Management had the most negative response rate (23%) compared to 10% overall.

Work Environment

We asked five statements related to the overall work environment at SCFC. These statements should be reviewed in conjunction with the statements on motivation and commitment to get a full perspective on the role the day-to-day agency climate affects engagement. Responses in this category varied significantly from statement to statement.

Employees indicated a high degree of satisfaction with the work-life balance they have been able to obtain from working at SCFC. Overall, 76% of employees responded favorably while only 13% responded negatively. State Forest employees were the highest positive respondents (83%) while Management Level employees were the lowest (63%). Employees also thought that SCFC was generally a good place to work (61% positive). However, the variation among groups was considerable. The most positive groups were Headquarters employees (78%), Fire Fighters (75%), employees with Greater than 20 Years of Service (74%), and Senior Level Management (72%). The least positive categories of employees were Non-Management employees (51%), Female employees (48%), employees with 11-20 Years of Service (47%), and State Forest employees (39%).

Most employees responded that they were treated with dignity and respect (54%), but the overall negative response rate to this statement was 26% as well. Female employees were the least positive in response to this statement (30%) and indicated the greatest negative response rate (50%). In addition, State Forest employees (39%) and Non-Management (37%) had much higher negative response rates to this statement.

Employees had a rather low opinion of the level of accountability of employees in the organization for producing quality work. Overall, only 38% indicated that they thought employees were held accountable for doing a good job, while 27% responded negatively to this statement. The response differences among employee categories was also noteworthy:

Employee Category	% Positive Responses	% Negative Responses
Female	NA	46%
11-20 Yrs. of Service	NA	46%
State Forest	17%	48%
Senior Level Management	14%	50%
Management Level	28%	44%
Non-Management	NA	43%
Fire Fighters	58%	NA

^{*}only differences of > 10% for the overall average indicated, otherwise indicated as NA

When asked if the SCFC had a real interest in the welfare and satisfaction of employees who worked there, only 31% responded positively and 42% responded negatively. This response pattern indicates that many employees have become cynical about the organization's ability to meet their needs and should be of great concern to senior leadership going forward as it may have an impact on the agency's ability to mobilize the workforce around changes being contemplated. Once again, the variance among groups was considerable. The least positive groups were State Forest employees (9%), Management Level employees (20%), Non-Management Level employees and employees with 11-20 Years of Service (21%). The most positive groups were Senior Level Management (45%) and Headquarters employees (43%), but even these response rates are not particularly positive overall.

Safety and Equipment

Overall, responses in this grouping of statements was somewhat positive about both safety and equipment. However, many negative observations about equipment were made in response to the open-ended questions later in the survey, an interesting disconnect. Overall, 70% of employees indicated that safety was a top priority for the agency. Headquarters employees (92%) and employees with Greater than 20 Years of Service (80%) were the most positive. Only Female employees were less certain of the agency's commitment to safety with a 57% positive response rate. In addition, 65% of employees responded positively to the statement "I have been adequately trained in safety practices and procedures." However, 16% of employees also responded negatively to that statement. Several sub-groups also expressed a less positive view of the statement. Female employees (45%), Senior Level Management

(50%), Non-Management employees and Headquarters employees (54%) had lower positive response rates.

More concern was expressed by employees regarding whether safety problems were resolved quickly once identified (60% positive). In addition, only 46% of employees overall indicated that their equipment was safe and well-maintained while 25% responded negatively to this statement. Female employees (26%), employees with 10 Years of Service or Less (36%), Management Level employees (33%), and State Forest employees (35%) had less positive responses than the overall population. Headquarters employees (62%), employees with Greater than 20 Years of Service (61%), and Senior Level Management (60%) were more positive on this statement.

The most positive overall response in this section was 68% to the statement "I have the materials, tools and equipment I need to do my work correctly. Senior Level Management (86%) and Headquarters employees (78%) had higher levels of positive responses. Interestingly, both categories also had a 0% negative response rate to the statement. Employees who were identified as Management Level had both the lowest positive response rate at 58% and the largest negative response rate at 28%.

Mission and Direction

The statements in this category had positive response rates that were variable from statement to statement. The most positive responses came to the statement "I have confidence and trust in my supervisor" at 77% overall. At the high end of positive response rates were employees who work in State Forests (91%) and Fire Fighters (88%). Non-Management employees had less positive feelings at (66%). Employees were also reasonably positive regarding the idea that the agency continually tries to improve services to the public at 59%. Employees with Greater than 20 Years of Service were the most positive at 74% and Non-Management employees were the least positive at 48%.

The responses were similarly positioned on the statement "The agency's policies help you provide good service to the public." Overall, 53% of responses were positive and only 13% were negative to this item. However, there was variance among different categories of employees. Fire Fighters (70%) and employees with Greater than 20 Years of Service (68%) had the most positive responses. State Forest employees had the lowest positive response rate at 39%, while Senior Level Management replied positively at a rate of 41% and negatively at a rate of 23%.

Overall, 57% of the SCFC workforce indicated that the mission of the agency was well understood. The positive responses across all categories of employees was reasonably uniform, with Fire Fighters having the highest level of agreement (67%) and Female employees having the lowest level of agreement with this statement (44%).

Two statements in this section had very low positive response rates. Both statements related to Senior Level Management. Overall, 27% of employees responded positively and 41% of the employees responded negatively to the statement "Senior Management has clearly communicated the future direction of the organization." There was no significant variance among groups in the agency. Also, only 31% of the employees responded positively and 36% responded negatively to the statement "I have trust and confidence in Senior Management." The least positive groups were State Forest employees (9%). The most positive responses came from Senior Level Management (41%) and Headquarter employees (43%). The most negative responses came from Management Level employees (52%).

Your Job

The survey asked ten statements that related to how people perceived their individual jobs at SCFC. Overall, employees felt that their job duties were generally well defined (80% positive). Two categories of employees were significantly less positive, Female employees (60%) and State Forest employees (65%). Also, 77% of employees overall indicated that their job made good use of their skills and abilities. Additionally, 75% of employees overall responded positively about their understanding of SCFC's policies, procedures, and work rules that affect their jobs. There was some variance on this statement. Employees with Greater than 20 Years of Service were more positive (87%) and employees with 11-20 Years of Service and Management Level employees were less positive (65%). Employees also responded that their written position description was accurate at a 69% level with only Female employees (52%) and State Forest employees (50%) being significantly less positive toward this statement. These responses should be regarded as quite positive by SCFC when compared to responses to similar statements posed in other state agency surveys.

Four statements related to supervisory interaction on a day-to-day basis all came back positively as well. First, employees responded positively that their supervisors treated all subordinates fairly (78%). However, there was a significant variance among Female employees (52% positive), Senior Level Management (59% positive), and Non-Management employees (68% positive). On the other hand, 89% of Fire Fighters responded positively to this statement. On the second supervisor statement, 85% of employees responded positively to the statement "My supervisor is available when I need him or her." Employees of the State Forests were even more positive at 96%. Also, 69% of employees overall indicated that they felt free to speak up and express their views at work. Once again, State Forest employees were even more positive on this statement at 86%. Lastly, 68% of all survey respondents indicated that they get adequate feedback about their job performance. Fire fighters were the most positive (84%) and Management Level employees were the least positive (56%.)

Overall, 69% of SCFC employees responded positively to the statement "I find my job interesting and challenging." Several employee groups were even more positive in response to

this statement: State Forest employees (86%); Fire Fighters (85%); Senior Level Management (82%); Employees with Greater than 20 Years of Service (81%); and Employees with 10 or Fewer Years of Service (80%). The lowest positive response rate in this category was 58% overall to the statement "I can influence decisions that affect my job." While State Forest employees (74%), and Headquarters employees and Senior Level Management employees (68%) were considerably higher in positive responses, Female employees responded positively only 35% of the time.

Policies and Practices

When asked if the SCFC valued a diverse workforce, 61% of employees responded positively and only 10% responded negatively to the statement. Fire Fighters shared the highest percentage of positive responses (73%), while Female employees (48%) and Management Level employees (50%) were less favorable. Similarly we asked for responses to the statement "SCFC has been effective in providing equal employment opportunities for all persons ." Overall 64% responded positively and 15% negatively, but with slightly greater variation in responses among employee groups. Fire Fighters were the most positive (77%) and Senior Level Management (73%) was also more positive. However, Female employees (48% positive and 29% negative), Non-Management employees (52% positive and 25% negative), and Headquarters employees (54% positive) were less likely to strongly agree or agree with the statement.

Two statements related to the administration of policies and practices. The employees responded to the statement "SCFC deals with harassment/discrimination issues promptly and fairly" in a somewhat neutral manner. Overall, 47% responded positively, but 41% responded "neither agree nor disagree." This may be an indicator that many employees are unfamiliar with how these issues are resolved by the agency. There were some variances in the responses to this statement. Only 36% of Female employees responded positively and 27% responded negatively. State Forest employees had a positive response rate of just 35%. Employees who have been with the agency for Ten Years or Fewer had a 64% positive response rate and Fire Fighters responded positively 58% of the time.

Also, when responding to the statement "Human Resources policies are administered fairly and consistently," 39% responded positively and the same percentage of employees responded, "neither agree nor disagree." The least positive groups of employees for this statement were State Forest employees (13%), Management Level employees (24% positive and 35% negative), and employees who have been employed by SCFC from 11-20 Years (26%). More positive responses came from Fire Fighters and employees with Greater than 20 Years of Service (51%) for both groups.

<u>Leadership</u>

Overall, this was the least positive of all the sections of the engagement survey. Not one of the six statements received greater than a 50% positive response and only one was close to that level. Responses to the statement "Senior level management trusts employees to do their jobs" received an overall 49% positive response rate and a 32% negative response rate. There was more variation on this statement among groups than any other statement on the survey. However, it appears that only Fire Fighters and employees with Greater than 20 Years of Service have a highly positive view of this issue. See below:

Group Category	Positive Response Rate	Negative Response Rate
Fire Fighters	69%	15%
>20 Yrs. Of Service	59%	18%
11-20 Yrs. Of Service	38%	46%
Headquarters Employees	36%	47%
Senior Level Management	36%	46%
Female Employees	31%	43%
Management Level Employees	28%	46%
State Forest Employees	22%	43%

Unfortunately, responses to the other statements in this section were even less positive. Only 39% of employees had confidence in the fairness of Senior Level Management while 35% responded negatively to this statement. Female employees replied negatively at a rate of 57%. Other groups that were significantly more negative were Management Level employees at 56% and Employees with 11-20 Years of Service (48%). Employees with Greater than 20 Years of Service were the most positive with a 50% response rate versus a 25% negative response rate. State Forest employees had the least positive response rate (18%) and Fire Fighters had the lowest negative response rate (19%) on this survey item.

Positive employee responses when asked if they can believe what they hear from senior level management were also quite low. Only 37% strongly agreed or agreed with this statement and 34% disagreed or strong disagreed. Once again, Female employees (23%) and State Forest and Management Level employees (22% for both) had the least positive responses. Employees with 11-20 Years of Services had a 49% negative response rate to the statement. The most positive groups were Senior Level Management (55%) and Headquarters employees (47%). A similar pattern exists in response to the statement "Senior level management is aware of the problems at my level of the organization." Overall, only 35% responded positively and 39% responded negatively. Headquarters employees and Senior Level Management were once again the most positive (56% and 54% respectively) while State Forest employees were the least positive (22%) and Management Level employees (57%) were the most negative in response to this statement.

The lowest positive response rates were reserved for the statements that addressed senior management decision-making. When asked to respond to the statement "Senior level management is open to new ideas and suggestions" 23% of employees responded positively overall while 38% responded negatively. State Forest employees were the least positive (9%) and employees that identified as having between 11 and 20 Years of Service (49%) and Management Level employees (52%) had the highest levels of negative replies. No group was significantly more positive in their responses. In addition, employees were even less positive overall in response to the statement "Decisions are made at the levels in this organization where the most adequate and accurate information is available." Only 27% of employees replied in a positive manner while 41% responded negatively. The least positive employee groups were State Forest employees (0% with 52% negative), Female employees (11%) and Non-Management Level employees (15%). Fire Fighters (41%) and Employees with Greater than 20 Years of Service (37%) were the only employee groups that had significantly higher positive response rates.

The responses to this entire section clearly indicates a significant credibility gap on the part of senior SCFC management with the rest of the employees of the agency. While the causes of this gap are unclear from the responses to the multiple-choice statements, many clues can be gathered from the replies to the open-ended statements, which are summarized on later pages of this report. Rebuilding credibility should be a top priority for the new State Forester and his direct reports in the coming year.

<u>Supervision</u>

Responses to the six statements in this section of the survey could not have been more opposite than those from the prior section. Survey responses were overwhelmingly positive related to the day-to-day supervision received by employees and their relationships with their immediate supervisors. The author has never completed an engagement survey that gathered such high levels of positive responses about employee's supervisors. The numbers speak for themselves:

Statement	Positive Responses	Neutral Responses	Negative Responses	Comments
My supervisor demonstrates honesty and integrity	87%	10%	3%	Female employees (76%) positive State Forest employees (100%) positive
My supervisor helps me find solutions to problems.	86%	11%	3%	State Forest employees (96%) positive
My supervisor respects employees as individuals.	88%	8%	4%	Female employees (75%) positive
My supervisor clearly communicates performance expectations.	79%	13%	8%	Female employees (68%) positive
My supervisor gives me open and honest feedback on my performance.	81%	12%	7%	Fire Fighters (92%) positive
My supervisor trusts employees to do their job.	87%	9%	4%	Fire Fighters (97%) positive Senior Level Mgt. (73%) positive (18%) negative

Several conclusions can be drawn from the comparison of the final two sections of the survey. First, direct supervisors have an excellent relationship with their employees at almost every level of the organization. This has likely been a powerful deterrent to employee turnover considering the negative responses to the survey statements about compensation and rewards. The number one cause of employee turnover in most organizations is a poor relationship between the employee and their immediate supervisor. Second, the lack of organizational cohesion among senior leaders and front-line managers is concerning. Many responses from management level employees (supervisors) to statements about senior leadership, training, employee satisfaction, decision-making, motivation, and materials and equipment indicate a level of dissatisfaction with their ability to influence senior leadership. This can have two negative effects: 1) Disgruntlement and resentment of supervisors toward senior leadership, and 2) Stimulation of supervisors to vent about their frustrations with senior leadership to their employees. If either, or both, of these are happening at SCFC, it could be creating a polarizing effect where employees feel they must choose a side on issues. Since the credibility of the supervisor is so much greater, it is likely that they employees will side with their manager in most cases and view senior leadership as "the problem" rather than as a partner to solving problems. SCFC senior leadership must begin bridging the credibility gap identified from the survey responses.

Open-Ended Question Responses

Summarized below are the most common responses to each of the open-ended questions. The numbers in parentheses (#) indicate the frequency of responses that fell into the category summaries.

What are the three (3) most positive things about working for SCFC?

- The other people that I work with/my team (121)
- Retirement/Benefits/Leave offered by the State (72)
- Flexibility (schedules, work from home etc.) (64)
- Working with the public/Serving the public and community/Making a difference or impact/helping landowners (62)
- My supervisor (34)
- Relaxed, positive, family-like agency atmosphere of agency/work environment (31)
- Working outdoors (30)
- Enjoy my job/work (30)
- Protecting forests and natural resources (24)
- Job task diversity/Do not get bored (14)
- Fighting fires (13)
- Job security (13)
- Traveling to assist other areas/western detail work (12)
- Getting newer equipment (11)
- Agency image/credibility (7)
- Emphasis on safety (7)
- Able to work another job or do other things (6)
- I get a paycheck (6)
- Proud of my work (5)
- Getting valuable training (5)
- Future career growth (4)
- Agency leadership (3)
- Partnerships with other agencies and local fire departments (3)

The themes track very closely with the responses to the multiple-choice statements. There were several other items mentioned 1-2 times by individuals that are not recorded here.

What are the three (3) biggest challenges facing the SCFC?

- Pay rates/Pay scales/Salaries for employees (156) Rising costs of state benefits (6)
- Old equipment/Equipment in poor repair (trucks, tractors, radios, office equipment) (65)
- Recruiting and retention of new employees (63)
- Low employee morale (46)
- Lack of agency funding/Poor communication with General Assembly on budget (39)
- Divide between HQ and field/Micromanagement from headquarters or region/Lack of trust of senior management (36)
- Lack of career opportunities and career mobility (30)
- Inadequate or poor communication from headquarters to employees (24)
- Decline in good training over last 10 years (22)
- Staying relevant to the state and public (19)
- Too many vacant positions/Too long to fill vacant positions (17)
- Poor or slow decision-making by senior management (14)
- Urbanization/Prescribed burning/Relationships with local fire departments (11)
- Loss of seasoned employees/Inexperience of new employees (11)
- Being on call 24/7 or on duty on call for fire fighters and the schedule (10)
- Regional differences in how agency is managed (10)
- New equipment (esp. new tractors) not as good/safe as older units (9)
- Poor fitness or safety practices (9)
- Human Resources difficult to deal with or not helpful (9)
- Unwillingness to change how agency does things (6)
- Lack of employee recognition (6)
- Lack of accountability for some employees (5)
- Poor supervision (5)
- Old or poorly applied agency policies (5)
- Climate change/weather change (3)
- Lack of equal treatment of female employees (3)

Once again, the responses tracked consistently with the responses to the multiple-choice statements and offer some insight regarding why the statements were responded to either negatively or positively.

What are the biggest barriers to your effective job performance?

- Lack of right equipment or equipment in good repair (i.e. new tractors, cell phones that cannot be used to communicate with all needed parties, pull plows instead of drop plows, radios, waiting on repair parts or additional equipment) (36)
- Spread too thin/workload/coverage areas too big/too many job responsibilities (30)
- Availability of good/adequate training (20)
- Micromanagement and lack of timely decisions from headquarters (18)
- Inadequate pay (14)
- Poor morale (10)
- Lack of internal communication (10)
- My supervisor (8)
- No incentives for good work or career growth (6)
- HR inconsistent/policies not followed or changed (6)
- Hiring process too slow (6)
- Lack of appropriate agency funding (6)
- Needless paperwork in field (4)
- Lack of employee recognition (3)
- Points system in the field (3)
- All employees who should be in PORS are not in the system (3)
- Changes in procurement practices (3)

Many employees did not respond to this question (perhaps they believed that they had already address their concerns in the previous question). Similarly, twenty-seven (27) employees responded "none" or "I have no barriers" or "I find ways around them."

If you were the State Forester for a day, what one change would you put into effect that would have the greatest impact on the agency?

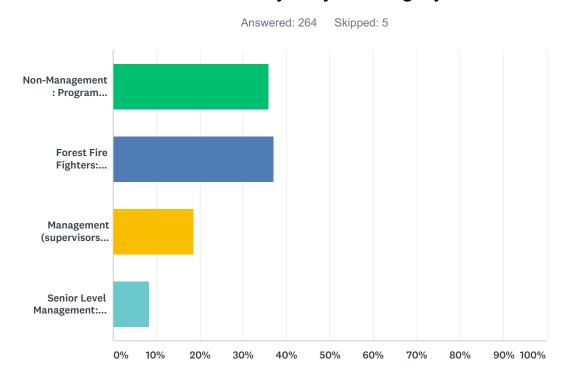
- Issue pay increases (49)
- Hold accountable/reassign or fire non-performing employees (30)
- Create career paths/create incentives and rewards (16)
- Reorganize (multiple different ideas mostly focused on HQ and Dispatch) (16)
- Improve the training offered in the agency (13)
- Involve non-management employees more often in decisions (10) see note below
- Show more appreciation to employees (9)
- Communicate more with the field employees directly (9)
- Ensure employees have the tools and equipment they need to do their jobs (8)
- See/meet with all employees more frequently (6)
- Find more agency funding (5)
- Improve uniform clothing (better fit, t-shirts) (5)
- Ensure more uniform operations in the regions (5)
- Emphasize safety more (4)
- Eliminate pack test, walking test (4)
- Get more people (foresters/state forest employees) into PORS (4)
- Help more small landowners (3)
- Give more responsibility to employees and hold them accountable (3)
- Overlap outgoing and incoming employees (3)
- Greater community presence for the agency/make people aware of underutilized services (3)
- Examine forester qualifications for new hires (2)
- Create more diversity in the agency (2)

The need for senior level management to be more visible to the field personnel was a theme that ran through several of the above categories of comments. Employees in the field want to be communicated with more often, involved in decisions that affect their jobs (like choosing and purchasing equipment and tools for work), and most of all feel that they have been listened to by upper management. The credibility gap mentioned in the responses to the multiple-choice statements (Senior Leadership section) could likely be addressed by acting in these areas.

What other comments do you have?

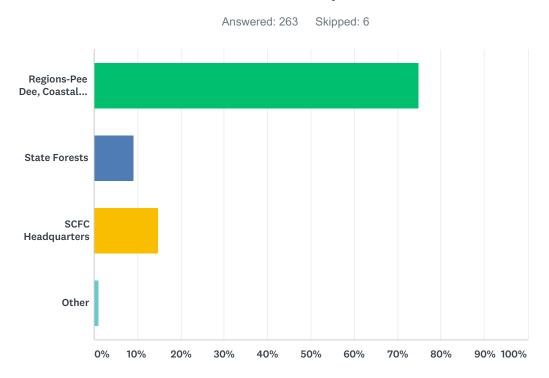
The comments in this section were primarily elaborations on issues surfaced elsewhere in the report. They provided additional detail or specific examples of points that the respondents wanted to make about an issue. Also, this section was used by approximately a dozen employees to vent about the actions or behaviors of other employees, senior leadership, or their supervisors in an unfavorable way. No patterns emerged other than those previously documented.

Q1 What is your job category?



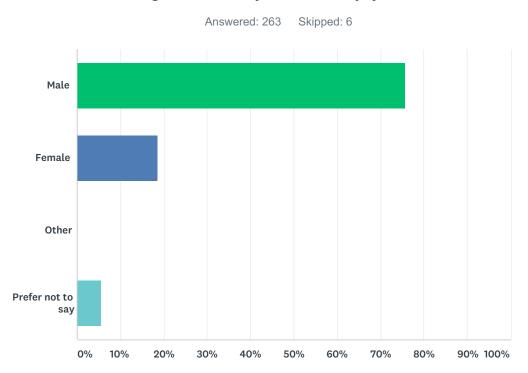
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPO	NSES
Non-Management: Program Coordinator I; Program Coordinator II; Communication Specialist; Administrative Specialist; Administrative Assistant; Administrative Coordinator; Human Resources Specialist; Fiscal Tech; Procurement Manager I; Public Information Coordinator; Foresters (FIA, Project, Specialty); Pilot; Forestry Technician II (State Forests & FIA); Equipment Operator; Mechanic; Trade Specialist III; Forestry Technician III (Nurseries); Communication Technician; Communication Coordinator; IT Technician III; Investigator IV	35.98%	95
Forest Fire Fighters: Forestry Technicians I; Forestry Wardens	37.12%	98
Management (supervisors/middle managers):Forestry Supervisor; Forestry Technicians II & III (supervisors); Human Resources Manager; Accounting/Fiscal Analyst II; Communication Coordinator; IT Manager I; Administrative Assistant; Trade Specialist V; Trades Specialist IV	18.56%	49
Senior Level Management: Exec Comp position; Program Manager II; Program Manager I; Public Information Director; Human Resources Director; Accounting/Fiscal Manager; Investigator V; Program Coordinator II (Dispatch); Build/Grounds Supervisor	8.33%	22
TOTAL		264

Q2 What location do you work in?



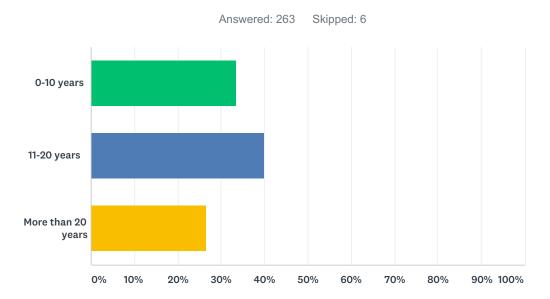
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Regions-Pee Dee, Coastal, Piedmont	74.90%	197
State Forests	9.13%	24
SCFC Headquarters	14.83%	39
Other	1.14%	3
TOTAL		263

Q3 What gender do you identify yourself as?



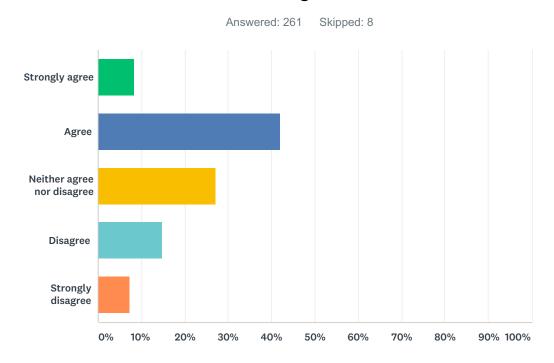
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	75.67%	199
Female	18.63%	49
Other	0.00%	0
Prefer not to say	5.70%	15
TOTAL		263

Q4 How long have you worked for the South Carolina Forestry Commission?



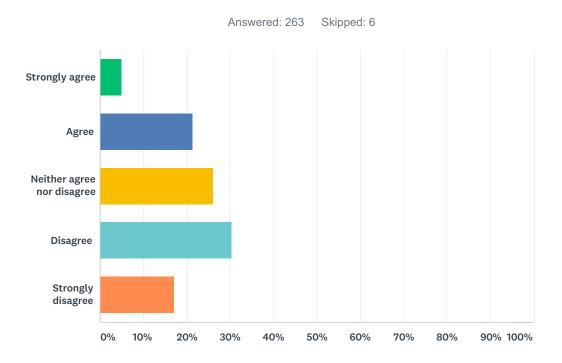
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-10 years	33.46%	88
11-20 years	39.92%	105
More than 20 years	26.62%	70
TOTAL		263

Q5 Working in this organization has allowed me to progress toward my career goals.



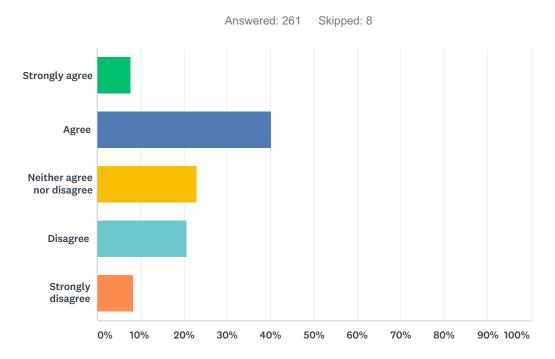
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	8.43%	22
Agree	42.15%	110
Neither agree nor disagree	27.20%	71
Disagree	14.94%	39
Strongly disagree	7.28%	19
TOTAL		261

Q6 I am satisfied with my chances for getting ahead in this organization in the future.



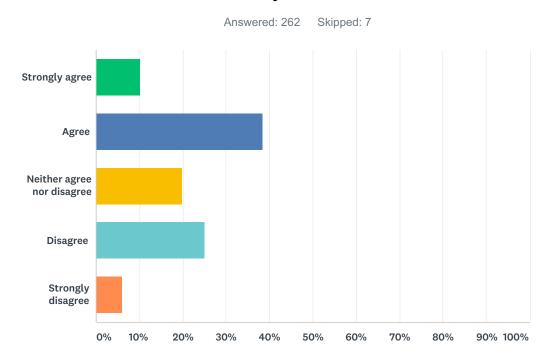
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	4.94%	13
Agree	21.29%	56
Neither agree nor disagree	26.24%	69
Disagree	30.42%	80
Strongly disagree	17.11%	45
TOTAL		263

Q7 This organization provides adequate orientation for new employees.



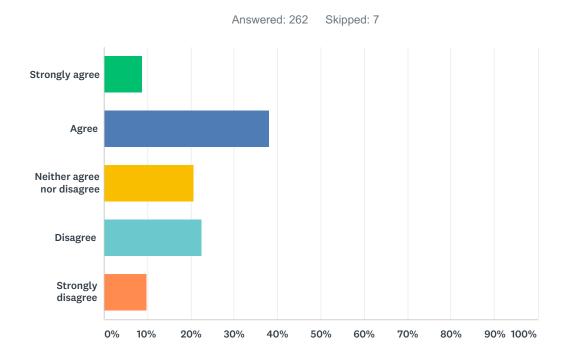
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	7.66%	20
Agree	40.23%	105
Neither agree nor disagree	22.99%	60
Disagree	20.69%	54
Strongly disagree	8.43%	22
TOTAL		261

Q8 New employees are provided the necessary training to perform their job.



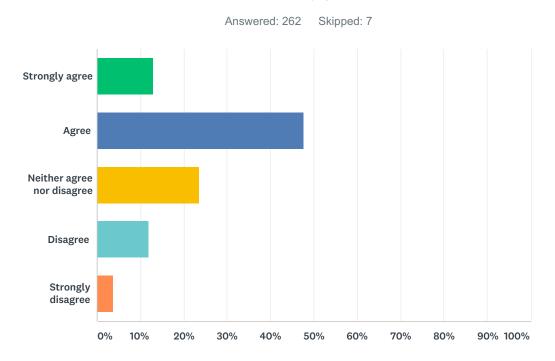
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	10.31%	27
Agree	38.55%	101
Neither agree nor disagree	19.85%	52
Disagree	25.19%	66
Strongly disagree	6.11%	16
TOTAL		262

Q9 The SCFC provides sufficient training for its employees.



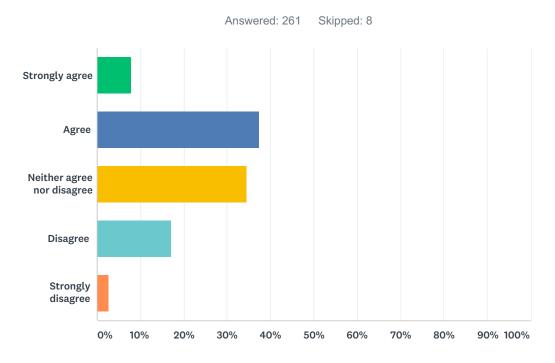
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	8.78%	23
Agree	38.17%	100
Neither agree nor disagree	20.61%	54
Disagree	22.52%	59
Strongly disagree	9.92%	26
TOTAL		262

Q10 The training I have received has been sufficient for me to perform well in my job.



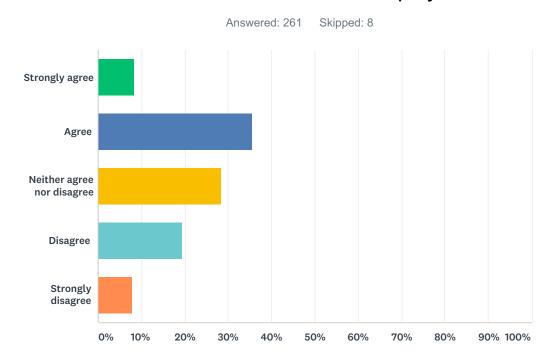
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	12.98%	34
Agree	47.71%	125
Neither agree nor disagree	23.66%	62
Disagree	11.83%	31
Strongly disagree	3.82%	10
TOTAL		262

Q11 Employees are proud to belong to this organization.



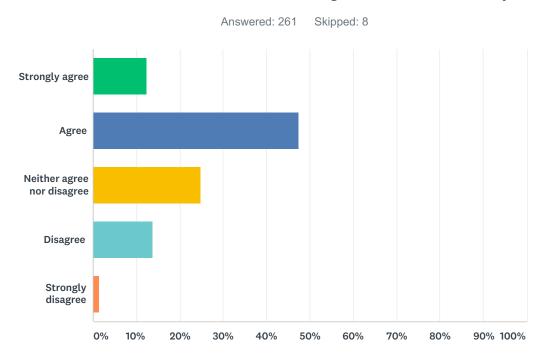
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	8.05%	21
Agree	37.55%	98
Neither agree nor disagree	34.48%	90
Disagree	17.24%	45
Strongly disagree	2.68%	7
TOTAL		261

Q12 I would recommend that a friend seek employment with the SCFC.



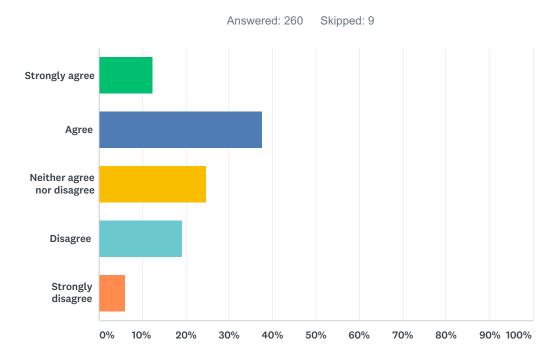
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	8.43%	22
Agree	35.63%	93
Neither agree nor disagree	28.35%	74
Disagree	19.54%	51
Strongly disagree	8.05%	21
TOTAL		261

Q13 I look forward to coming to work each day.



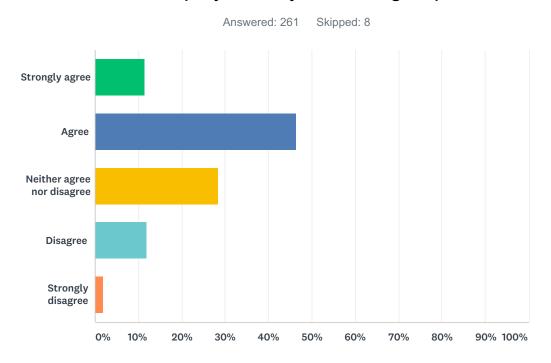
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	12.26%	32
Agree	47.51%	124
Neither agree nor disagree	24.90%	65
Disagree	13.79%	36
Strongly disagree	1.53%	4
TOTAL		261

Q14 The members of my work group are highly motivated.



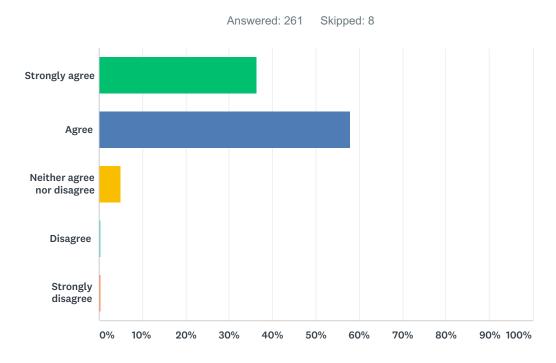
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	12.31%	32
Agree	37.69%	98
Neither agree nor disagree	24.62%	64
Disagree	19.23%	50
Strongly disagree	6.15%	16
TOTAL		260

Q15 Concern for this organization's public image affects the performance of employees in your work group.



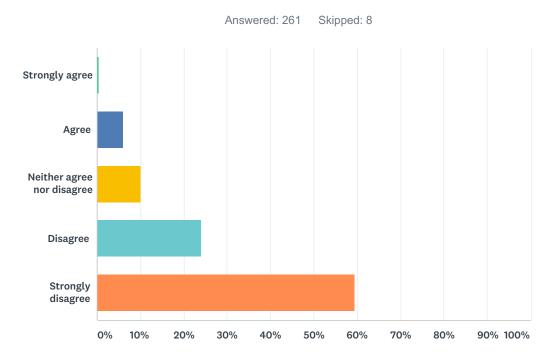
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	11.49%	30
Agree	46.36%	121
Neither agree nor disagree	28.35%	74
Disagree	11.88%	31
Strongly disagree	1.92%	5
TOTAL		261

Q16 I like working with the other members of my work group.



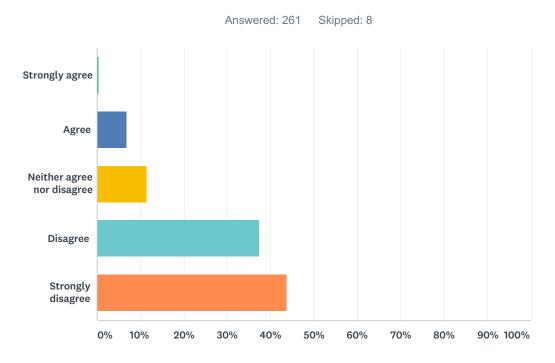
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	36.40%	95
Agree	57.85%	151
Neither agree nor disagree	4.98%	13
Disagree	0.38%	1
Strongly disagree	0.38%	1
TOTAL		261

Q17 Under the present pay system, exceptional job performance is recognized adequately.



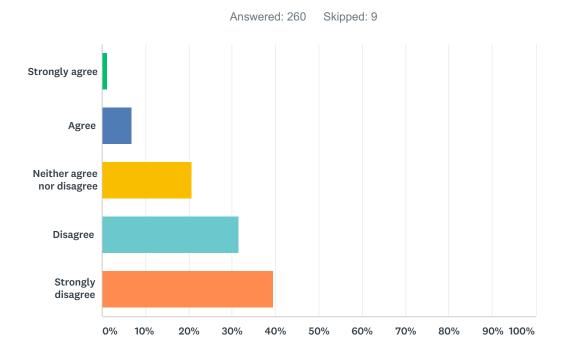
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	0.38%	1
Agree	6.13%	16
Neither agree nor disagree	9.96%	26
Disagree	24.14%	63
Strongly disagree	59.39%	155
TOTAL		261

Q18 My pay is competitive with the pay offered by other similar organizations in my community.



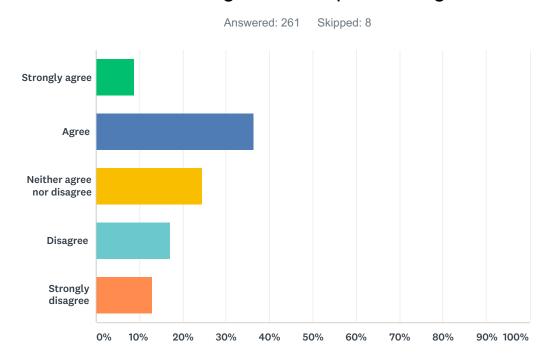
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	0.38%	1
Agree	6.90%	18
Neither agree nor disagree	11.49%	30
Disagree	37.55%	98
Strongly disagree	43.68%	114
TOTAL		261

Q19 This organization rewards people for doing a quality job.



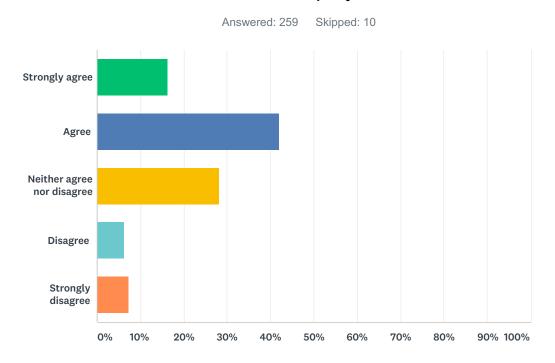
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	1.15%	3
Agree	6.92%	18
Neither agree nor disagree	20.77%	54
Disagree	31.54%	82
Strongly disagree	39.62%	103
TOTAL		260

Q20 I receive recognition and praise for good work.



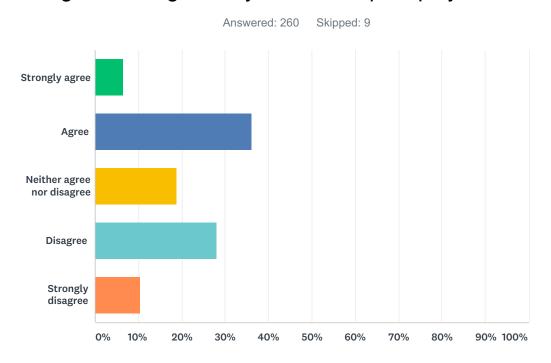
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	8.81%	23
Agree	36.40%	95
Neither agree nor disagree	24.52%	64
Disagree	17.24%	45
Strongly disagree	13.03%	34
TOTAL		261

Q21 My supervisor lets upper management know about the effectiveness of his/her employees.



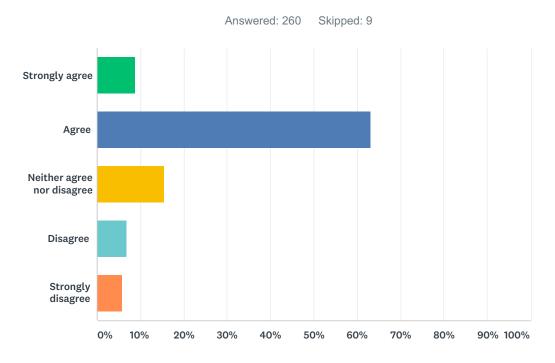
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	16.22%	42
Agree	42.08%	109
Neither agree nor disagree	28.19%	73
Disagree	6.18%	16
Strongly disagree	7.34%	19
TOTAL		259

Q22 This organization generally tries to keep employees well-informed.



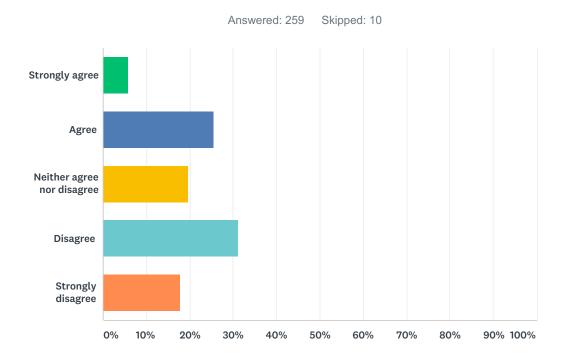
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	6.54%	17
Agree	36.15%	94
Neither agree nor disagree	18.85%	49
Disagree	28.08%	73
Strongly disagree	10.38%	27
TOTAL		260

Q23 I have access to information needed to do my job.



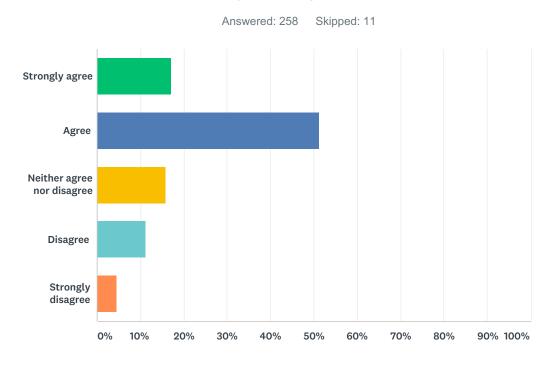
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	8.85%	23
Agree	63.08%	164
Neither agree nor disagree	15.38%	40
Disagree	6.92%	18
Strongly disagree	5.77%	15
TOTAL		260

Q24 Communication is a two-way street; upper management listens as well as talks.



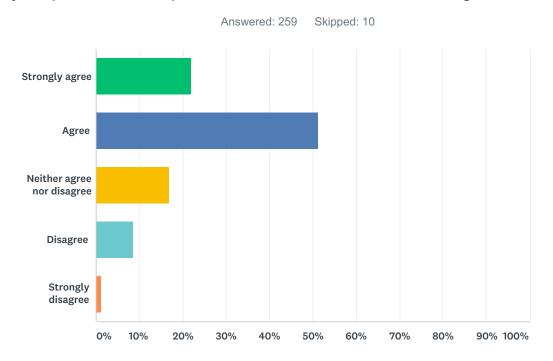
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	5.79%	15
Agree	25.48%	66
Neither agree nor disagree	19.69%	51
Disagree	31.27%	81
Strongly disagree	17.76%	46
TOTAL		259

Q25 My supervisor communicates the reasons for important decisions to my work group.



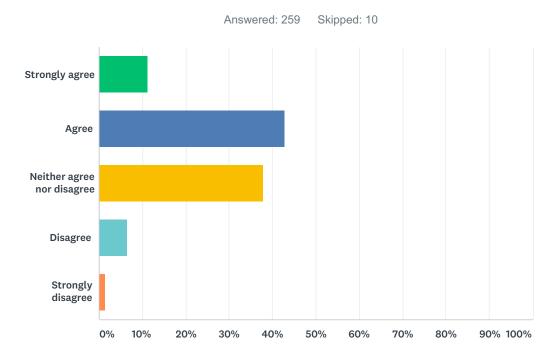
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	17.05%	44
Agree	51.16%	132
Neither agree nor disagree	15.89%	41
Disagree	11.24%	29
Strongly disagree	4.65%	12
TOTAL		258

Q26 My supervisor keeps me informed about the things I need to know.



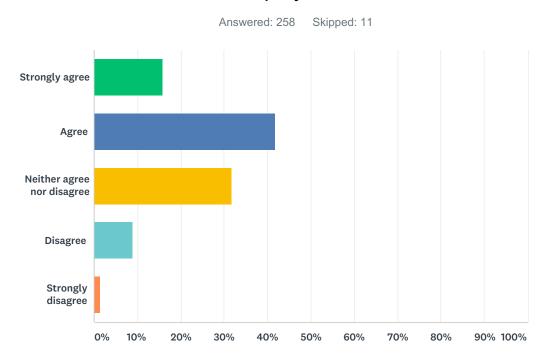
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	22.01%	57
Agree	51.35%	133
Neither agree nor disagree	16.99%	44
Disagree	8.49%	22
Strongly disagree	1.16%	3
TOTAL		259

Q27 I want additional information about the SCFC's goals and objectives.



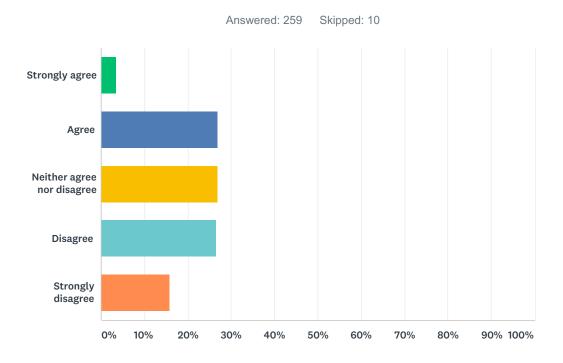
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	11.20%	29
Agree	42.86%	111
Neither agree nor disagree	37.84%	98
Disagree	6.56%	17
Strongly disagree	1.54%	4
TOTAL		259

Q28 Tree Country is an effective means of communicating with employees.



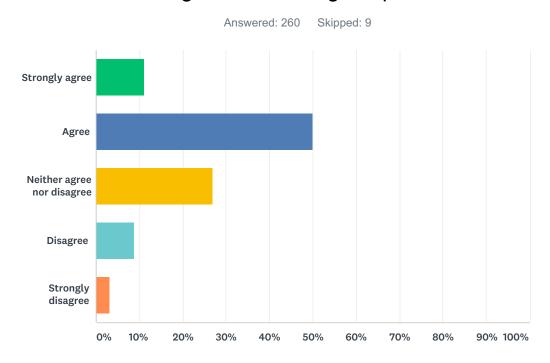
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	15.89%	41
Agree	41.86%	108
Neither agree nor disagree	31.78%	82
Disagree	8.91%	23
Strongly disagree	1.55%	4
TOTAL		258

Q29 The SCFC has a real interest in the welfare and satisfaction of those who work here.



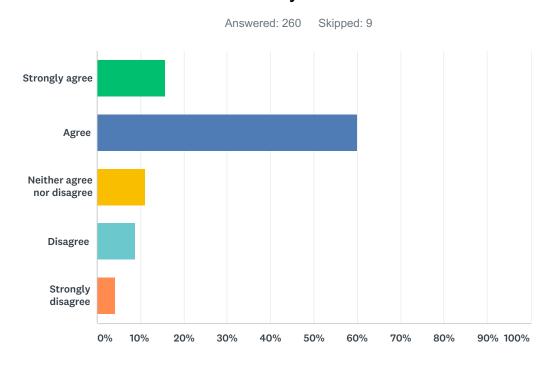
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	3.47%	9
Agree	27.03%	70
Neither agree nor disagree	27.03%	70
Disagree	26.64%	69
Strongly disagree	15.83%	41
TOTAL		259

Q30 This organization is a good place to work.



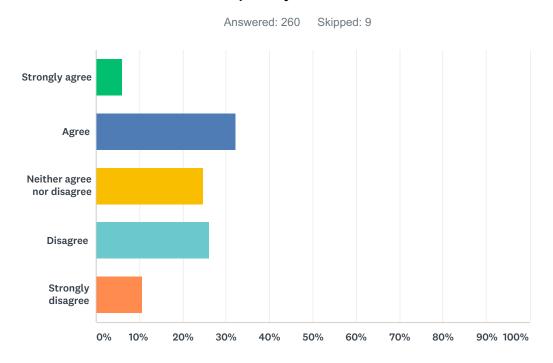
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	11.15%	29
Agree	50.00%	130
Neither agree nor disagree	26.92%	70
Disagree	8.85%	23
Strongly disagree	3.08%	8
TOTAL		260

Q31 I am able to effectively balance my job requirements and other parts of my life.



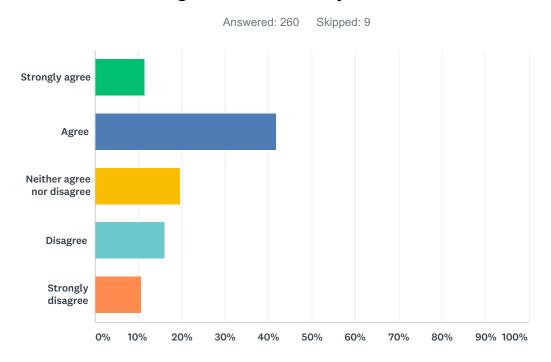
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	15.77%	41
Agree	60.00%	156
Neither agree nor disagree	11.15%	29
Disagree	8.85%	23
Strongly disagree	4.23%	11
TOTAL		260

Q32 People in this organization are held accountable for producing quality work.



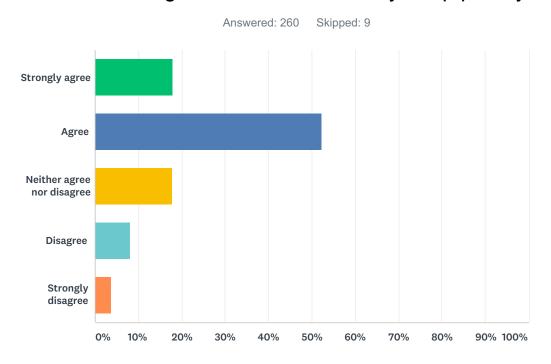
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	6.15%	16
Agree	32.31%	84
Neither agree nor disagree	24.62%	64
Disagree	26.15%	68
Strongly disagree	10.77%	28
TOTAL		260

Q33 People in this organization are treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their job level.



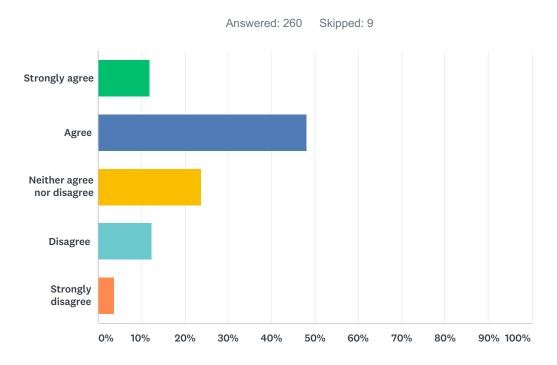
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	11.54%	30
Agree	41.92%	109
Neither agree nor disagree	19.62%	51
Disagree	16.15%	42
Strongly disagree	10.77%	28
TOTAL		260

Q34 This organization makes safety a top priority.



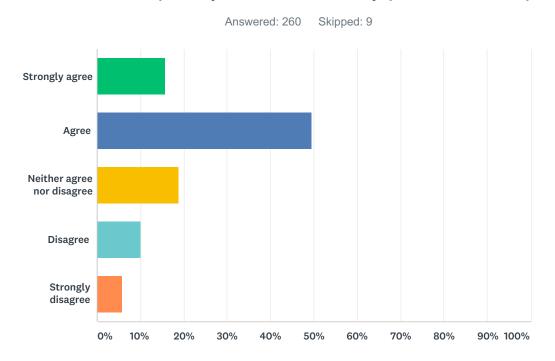
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	18.08%	47
Agree	52.31%	136
Neither agree nor disagree	17.69%	46
Disagree	8.08%	21
Strongly disagree	3.85%	10
TOTAL		260

Q35 When safety problems or hazards are identified, quick action is taken to resolve them.



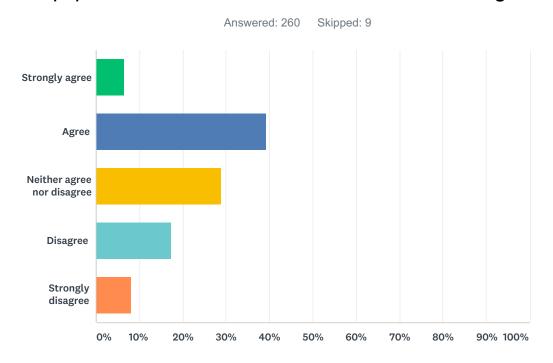
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	11.92%	31
Agree	48.08%	125
Neither agree nor disagree	23.85%	62
Disagree	12.31%	32
Strongly disagree	3.85%	10
TOTAL		260

Q36 I have been adequately trained in safety practices and procedures.



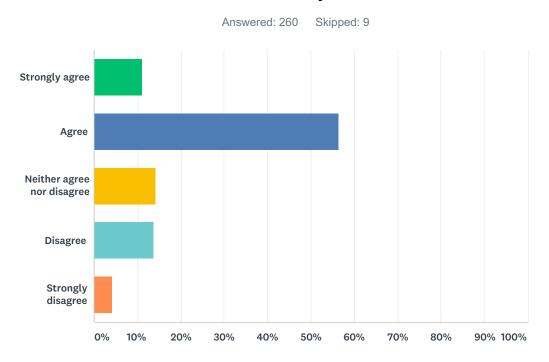
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	15.77%	41
Agree	49.62%	129
Neither agree nor disagree	18.85%	49
Disagree	10.00%	26
Strongly disagree	5.77%	15
TOTAL		260

Q37 Equipment is safe and well maintained in this organization.



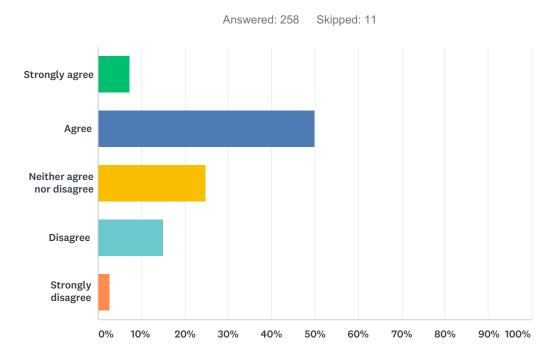
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	6.54%	17
Agree	39.23%	102
Neither agree nor disagree	28.85%	75
Disagree	17.31%	45
Strongly disagree	8.08%	21
TOTAL		260

Q38 I have the materials, tools and equipment I need to do my work correctly.



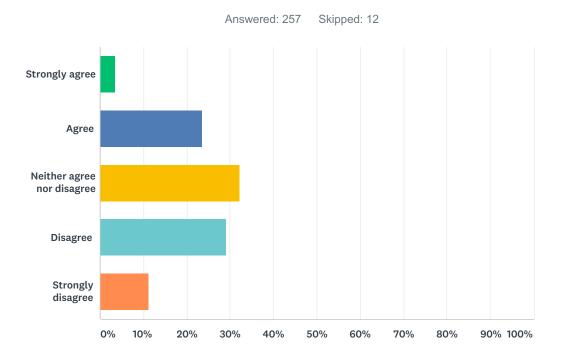
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	11.15%	29
Agree	56.54%	147
Neither agree nor disagree	14.23%	37
Disagree	13.85%	36
Strongly disagree	4.23%	11
TOTAL		260

Q39 The mission of the SCFC is well understood by employees.



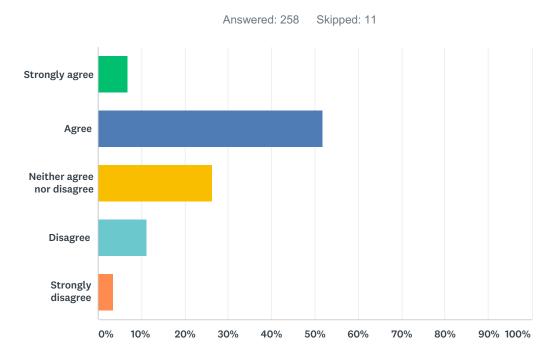
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	7.36%	19
Agree	50.00%	129
Neither agree nor disagree	24.81%	64
Disagree	15.12%	39
Strongly disagree	2.71%	7
TOTAL		258

Q40 Senior level management has clearly communicated the future direction of this organization.



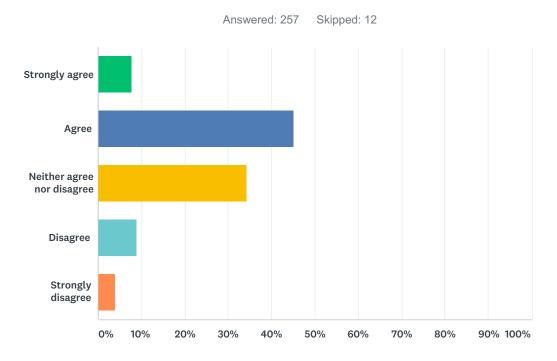
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	3.50%	9
Agree	23.74%	61
Neither agree nor disagree	32.30%	83
Disagree	29.18%	75
Strongly disagree	11.28%	29
TOTAL		257

Q41 The agency continually tries to improve services to the public.



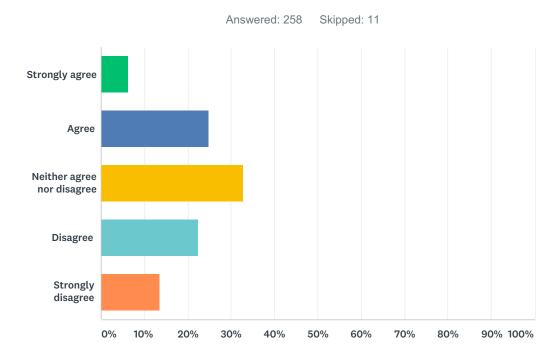
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	6.98%	18
Agree	51.94%	134
Neither agree nor disagree	26.36%	68
Disagree	11.24%	29
Strongly disagree	3.49%	9
TOTAL		258

Q42 The agency's policies help you provide good service to the public.



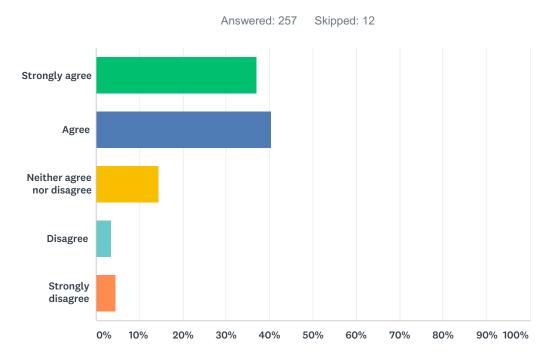
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	7.78%	20
Agree	45.14%	116
Neither agree nor disagree	34.24%	88
Disagree	8.95%	23
Strongly disagree	3.89%	10
TOTAL		257

Q43 I have trust and confidence in senior level management.



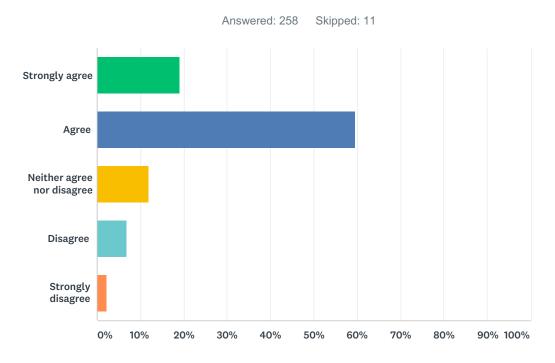
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	6.20%	16
Agree	24.81%	64
Neither agree nor disagree	32.95%	85
Disagree	22.48%	58
Strongly disagree	13.57%	35
TOTAL		258

Q44 I have confidence and trust in my supervisor.



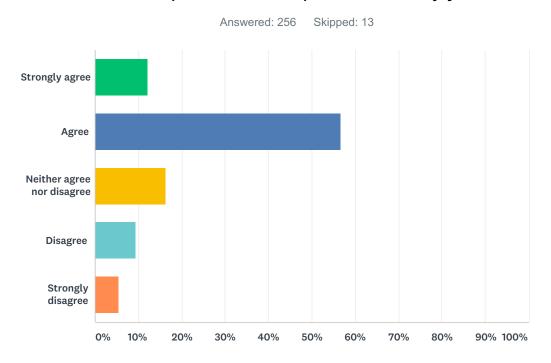
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	36.96%	95
Agree	40.47%	104
Neither agree nor disagree	14.40%	37
Disagree	3.50%	9
Strongly disagree	4.67%	12
TOTAL		257

Q45 My job responsibilities are defined clearly and specifically.



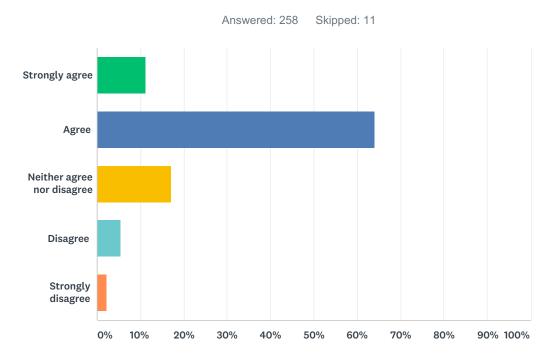
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	18.99%	49
Agree	59.69%	154
Neither agree nor disagree	12.02%	31
Disagree	6.98%	18
Strongly disagree	2.33%	6
TOTAL		258

Q46 My written position description is an accurate reflection of the duties and responsibilities I perform in my job.



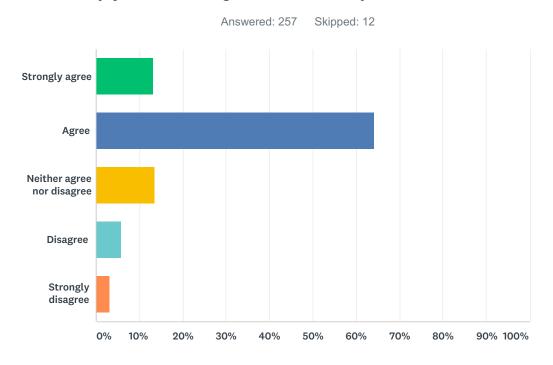
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	12.11%	31
Agree	56.64%	145
Neither agree nor disagree	16.41%	42
Disagree	9.38%	24
Strongly disagree	5.47%	14
TOTAL		256

Q47 I understand SCFC's policies, procedures, and work rules that affect my job.



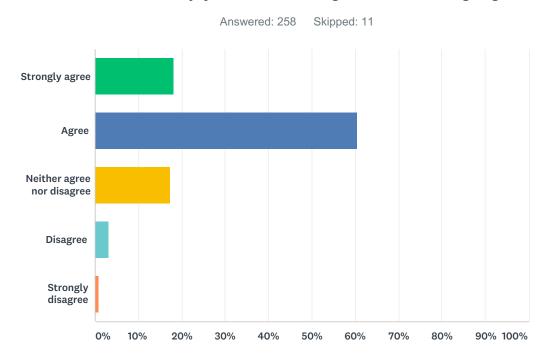
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	11.24%	29
Agree	63.95%	165
Neither agree nor disagree	17.05%	44
Disagree	5.43%	14
Strongly disagree	2.33%	6
TOTAL		258

Q48 My job makes good use of my skills and abilities.



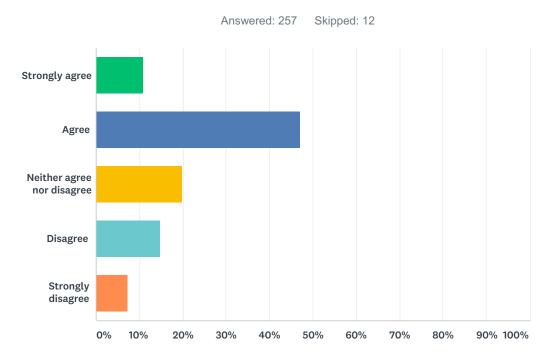
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	13.23%	34
Agree	64.20%	165
Neither agree nor disagree	13.62%	35
Disagree	5.84%	15
Strongly disagree	3.11%	8
TOTAL		257

Q49 I find my job interesting and challenging.



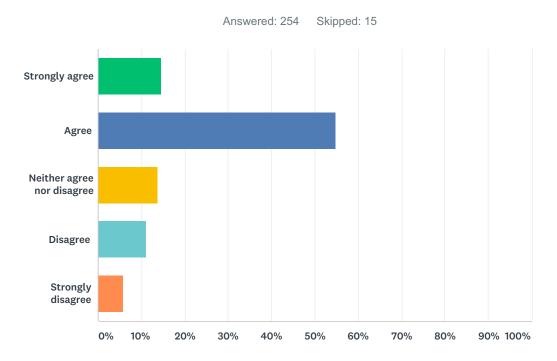
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	18.22%	47
Agree	60.47%	156
Neither agree nor disagree	17.44%	45
Disagree	3.10%	8
Strongly disagree	0.78%	2
TOTAL		258

Q50 I can influence decisions that affect my job.



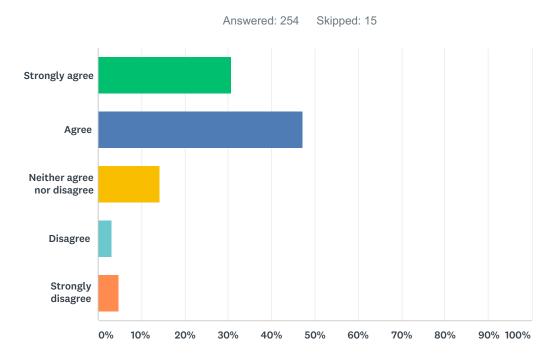
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	10.89%	28
Agree	47.08%	121
Neither agree nor disagree	19.84%	51
Disagree	14.79%	38
Strongly disagree	7.39%	19
TOTAL		257

Q51 I feel free to speak up and express my views on matters that are important to me.



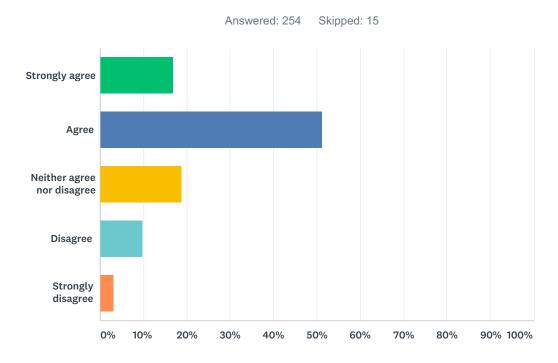
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	14.57%	37
Agree	54.72%	139
Neither agree nor disagree	13.78%	35
Disagree	11.02%	28
Strongly disagree	5.91%	15
TOTAL		254

Q52 My supervisor treats all subordinates fairly.



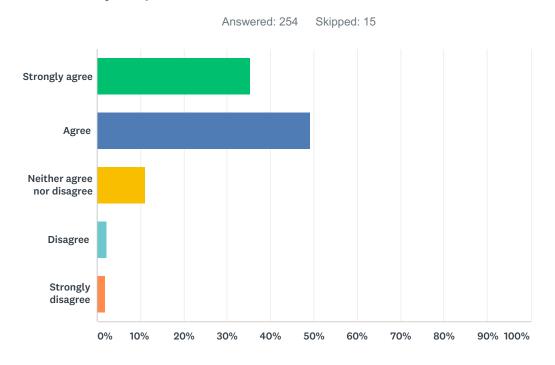
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	30.71%	78
Agree	47.24%	120
Neither agree nor disagree	14.17%	36
Disagree	3.15%	8
Strongly disagree	4.72%	12
TOTAL		254

Q53 I get adequate feedback about how I am doing my job.



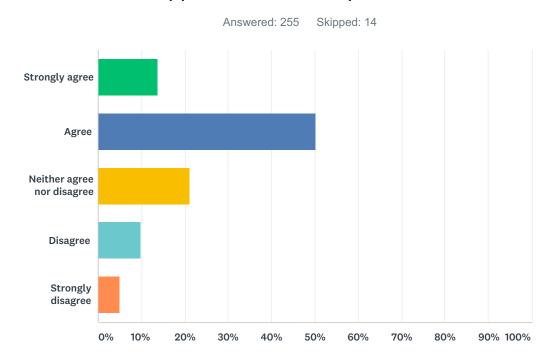
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	16.93%	43
Agree	51.18%	130
Neither agree nor disagree	18.90%	48
Disagree	9.84%	25
Strongly disagree	3.15%	8
TOTAL		254

Q54 My supervisor is available when I need him/her.



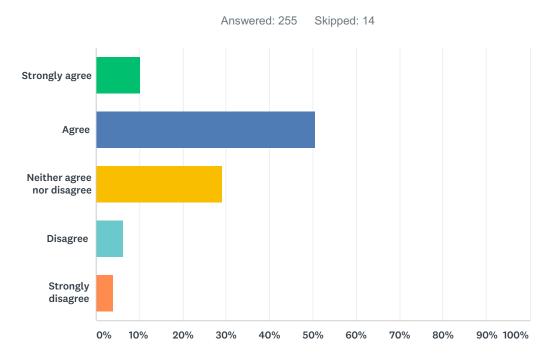
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	35.43%	90
Agree	49.21%	125
Neither agree nor disagree	11.02%	28
Disagree	2.36%	6
Strongly disagree	1.97%	5
TOTAL		254

Q55 SCFC has been effective in providing equal employment opportunities for all persons.



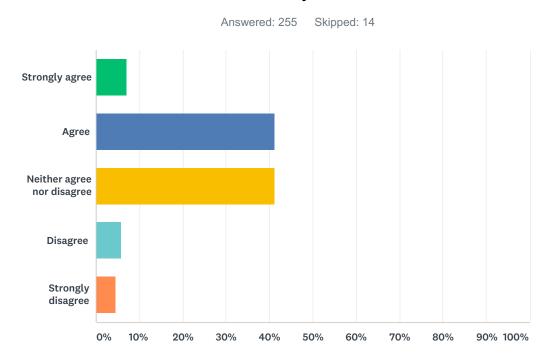
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	13.73%	35
Agree	50.20%	128
Neither agree nor disagree	21.18%	54
Disagree	9.80%	25
Strongly disagree	5.10%	13
TOTAL		255

Q56 This organization values a diverse workforce.



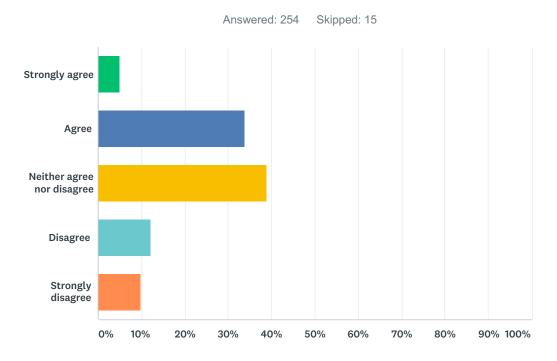
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	10.20%	26
Agree	50.59%	129
Neither agree nor disagree	29.02%	74
Disagree	6.27%	16
Strongly disagree	3.92%	10
TOTAL		255

Q57 SCFC deals with harassment/discrimination issues promptly and fairly.



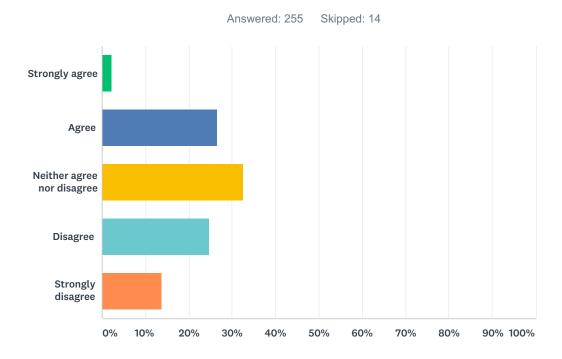
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	7.06%	18
Agree	41.18%	105
Neither agree nor disagree	41.18%	105
Disagree	5.88%	15
Strongly disagree	4.71%	12
TOTAL		255

Q58 Human Resources policies are administered fairly and consistently.



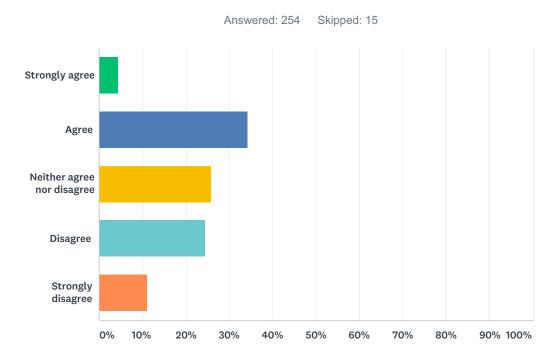
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	5.12%	13
Agree	33.86%	86
Neither agree nor disagree	38.98%	99
Disagree	12.20%	31
Strongly disagree	9.84%	25
TOTAL		254

Q59 Senior level management is open to new ideas and suggestions.



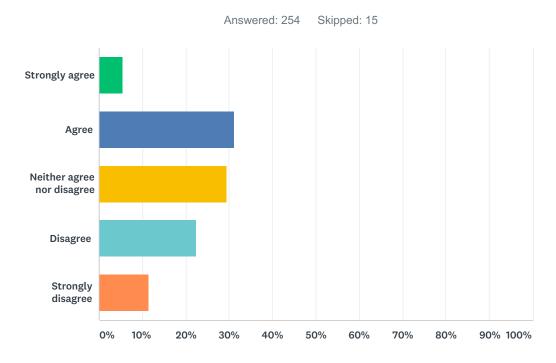
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	2.35%	6
Agree	26.67%	68
Neither agree nor disagree	32.55%	83
Disagree	24.71%	63
Strongly disagree	13.73%	35
TOTAL		255

Q60 I have confidence in the fairness of SCFC's senior level management.



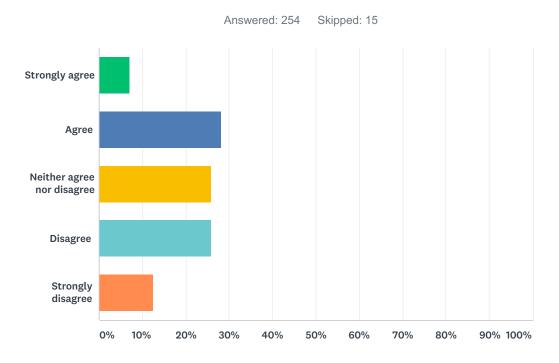
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	4.33%	11
Agree	34.25%	87
Neither agree nor disagree	25.98%	66
Disagree	24.41%	62
Strongly disagree	11.02%	28
TOTAL		254

Q61 Employees can believe what they hear from senior level management.



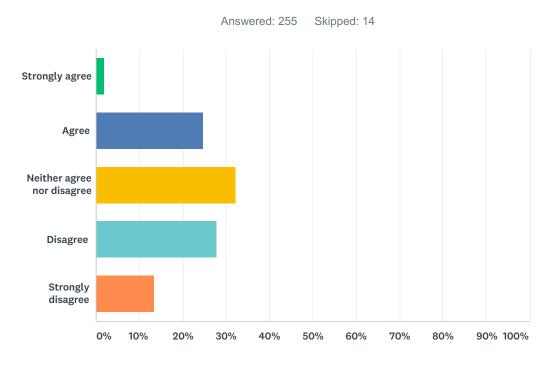
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	5.51%	14
Agree	31.10%	79
Neither agree nor disagree	29.53%	75
Disagree	22.44%	57
Strongly disagree	11.42%	29
TOTAL		254

Q62 Senior level management is aware of the problems at my level of the organization.



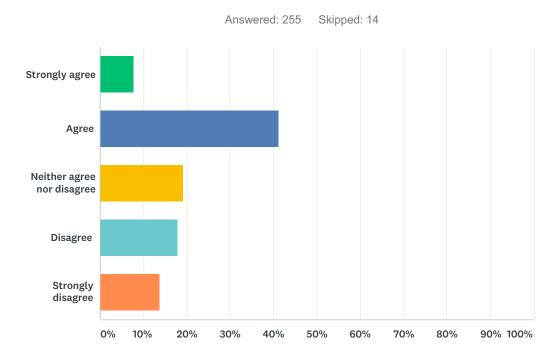
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	7.09%	18
Agree	28.35%	72
Neither agree nor disagree	25.98%	66
Disagree	25.98%	66
Strongly disagree	12.60%	32
TOTAL		254

Q63 Decisions are made at the levels in this organization where the most adequate and accurate information is available.



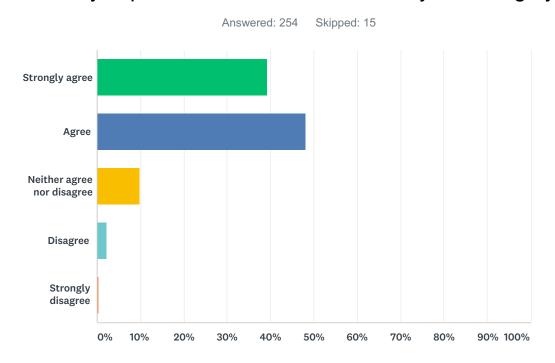
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	1.96%	5
Agree	24.71%	63
Neither agree nor disagree	32.16%	82
Disagree	27.84%	71
Strongly disagree	13.33%	34
TOTAL		255

Q64 Senior level management trusts employees to do their job.



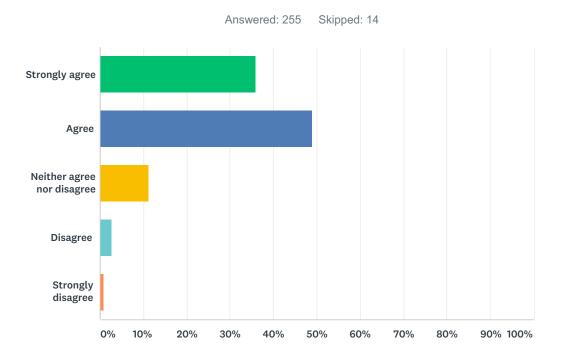
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	7.84%	20
Agree	41.18%	105
Neither agree nor disagree	19.22%	49
Disagree	18.04%	46
Strongly disagree	13.73%	35
TOTAL		255

Q65 My supervisor demonstrates honesty and integrity.



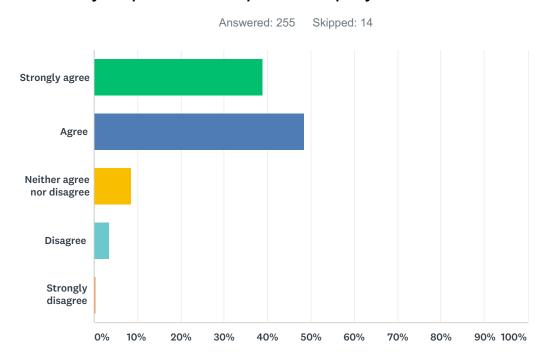
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	39.37%	100
Agree	48.03%	122
Neither agree nor disagree	9.84%	25
Disagree	2.36%	6
Strongly disagree	0.39%	1
TOTAL		254

Q66 My supervisor helps me find solutions to problems.



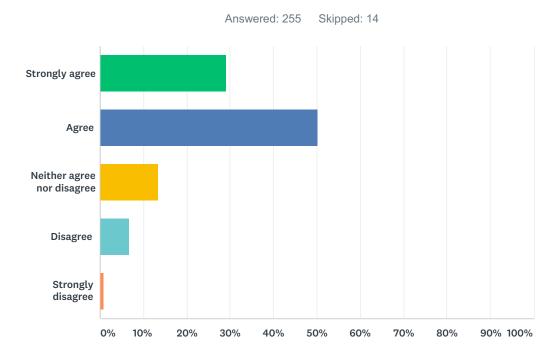
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	36.08%	92
Agree	49.02%	125
Neither agree nor disagree	11.37%	29
Disagree	2.75%	7
Strongly disagree	0.78%	2
TOTAL		255

Q67 My supervisor respects employees as individuals.



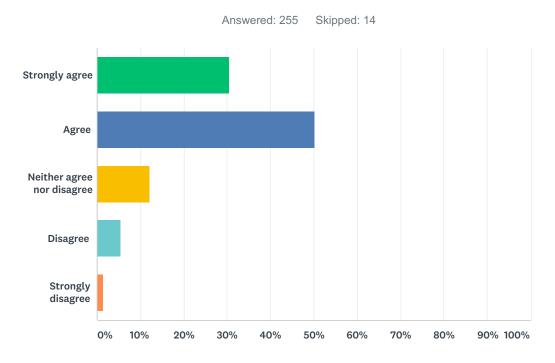
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	38.82%	99
Agree	48.63%	124
Neither agree nor disagree	8.63%	22
Disagree	3.53%	9
Strongly disagree	0.39%	1
TOTAL		255

Q68 My supervisor clearly communicates performance expectations.



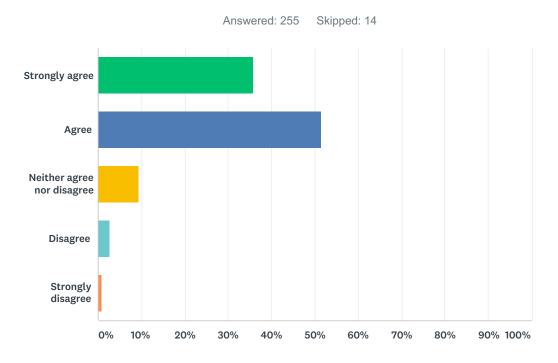
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	29.02%	74
Agree	50.20%	128
Neither agree nor disagree	13.33%	34
Disagree	6.67%	17
Strongly disagree	0.78%	2
TOTAL		255

Q69 My supervisor gives me open and honest feedback on my performance.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	30.59%	78
Agree	50.20%	128
Neither agree nor disagree	12.16%	31
Disagree	5.49%	14
Strongly disagree	1.57%	4
TOTAL		255

Q70 My supervisor trusts employees to do their job.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	35.69%	91
Agree	51.37%	131
Neither agree nor disagree	9.41%	24
Disagree	2.75%	7
Strongly disagree	0.78%	2
TOTAL		255

Q71 What are the three (3) most positive things about working for SCFC?

Answered: 218 Skipped: 51

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Item one	99.54%	217
Item two	93.12%	203
Item three	77.98%	170

Q72 What are the three (3) biggest challenges facing the SCFC?

Answered: 225 Skipped: 44

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Challenge 1	99.56%	224
Challenge 2	93.33%	210
Challenge 3	82.67%	186

Q73 What are the biggest barriers to your effective job performance?

Answered: 140 Skipped: 129

Q74 If you were the State Forester for a day, what one change would you put into effect that would have the greatest impact on the agency?

Answered: 145 Skipped: 124

Q75 What other comments do you have?

Answered: 119 Skipped: 150

SCFC Survey Responses Quick Reference

Legend

Highlighted if agree or disagree is 10% higher or lower than SCFC-All percentages.

Examples: 52%+ (indicates the positive response rate for the subgroup) 37%- (indicates the negative response rate for the subgroup)

Variance color code

Male employee (no variance)

Female employees

>20yrs. Service

11-20yrs. Service

0-10yrs. Service

Works in HQ

Regions (no variance)

State Forests

Sr. Mgt.

Management

Non-Mgt

Firefighter

Question	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Variances
	responses	Responses	Responses	
Progress toward career	51%	27%	32%	F-40%+ >20-21%- HQ 66%+ 16%-
goals				SF40%+43%- Sr.68%+13%- FF21%-
Chances to get ahead	26%	26%	48%	F-13%+ SF13%+70%- Sr.32%- Mgt62%-
				FF37%-
Orientation adequate	48%	23%	29%	F-36%+ 010-60%+ 1120-30%+
				Mgt36%+40%- FF59%+
New ees adequate job training	49%	20%	31%	>20-64%+ 19%- FF61%+
Sufficient training to	47%	21%	32%	F-35%+ SF30%+43%- Mgt.32%+
ees				FF63%+20%-
My training sufficient	61%	24%	15%	>20-73%+ SF48%+26%- Mgt47%+30%-
				FF75%+
Proud Employees	46%	34%	21%	HQ62%+ Mgt34%+ NM36%+ FF61%+
Friend Employment	44%	28%	28%	HQ59%+ SF22%+48%- Mgt.27%+
				FF59%+

Look forward to work	60%	25%	15%	1120-50%+ NM49%+
Work group highly motivated	50%	25%	25%	F-34%+ HQ60%+ Sr.5%- Mgt38%+ NM14%-
Concern for public image	58%	28%	14%	F-45%+
Like my work group	94%	5%	1%	
Exceptional performance recognized	7%	10%	83%	SF95%- Sr. 0%+95%- FF71%-
Pay competitive	7%	12%	81%	NM90%- FF70%-
Rewarded for quality job	8%	21%	71%	SF92%- Sr.0%+ Mgt81%- NM81%- FF56%-
Recognition and praise	45%	25%	20%	SF35%- Mgt32%+38%- NM35%- FF56%+
Super lets Mgt know of ee effectiveness	58%	28%	14%	F-43%+ FF68%+
Tries to keep ees well informed	43%	19%	38%	F-24%+ HQ62%+19%- SF30%+ Sr.59%+18%- Mgt33%+48%- FF54%+
Access to needed information	72%	15%	13%	F-51%+- HQ92%3%- FF84%+
Mgt. listens as well as talks	31%	20%	49%	F-20%+ >20-35%-HQ38%- Mgt59%-
Super comm reasons for decisions	68%	16%	16%	F-50%+ HQ27%- NM58%+ FF86%+
Super keeps me informed	73%	17%	10%	F-61%+ Sr. 54%+ NM62%+ FF86%+
Want additional information about g&o	54%	38%	8%	>20-41%+ Mgt68%+
Tree Country is effective	58%	32%	10%	>20-68%+ SF45%+ Sr. 23%- Mgt70%+
SCFC interested in satisfaction of ees	31%	27%	42%	F-62%- 1120-21%+ HQ43%+29%- SF9%+61%- Sr. 45%+27%- Mgt20%+54%- NM21%+53%- FF42%+29%-
Good place to work	61%	27%	12%	F-48%+ 1120-47%+ >74%+ HQ78%+ SF39%+ Sr.72%+ Mgt46%+ NM51%+ FF75%+
Can balance job and life	76%	11%	13%	SF83%+ Mgt63%+
People held accountable	38%	25%	27%	F-46%-1120-46%-SF17%+48%- Sr.14%+50%- Mgt 28%+44%- NM43%- FF58%+
Treated with dignity and respect	54%	20%	26%	F-30%+ 50%-SF39%- NM37%-
Safety a top priority	70%	18%	12%	F-57%+ >20-80%+HQ92%+2%-
Safety probs resolved quickly	60%	24%	16%	F-46%+HQ78%+0%-
Adequate safety training	65%	19%	16%	F-45%+HQ54%+ Sr.50%+27%- NM54%+
Equipment safe and well maintained	46%	29%	25%	F-26%+ 010-36%+ >20-61%+HQ62%+ SF35%+ Sr.60%+9%- Mgt33%+37%-

Have materials, tools and equip I need	68%	14%	18%	HQ78%+0%- Sr.86%+0%-
M: CCCCC II				Mgt58%+28%-
Mission of SCFC well understood	57%	25%	18%	F-44%+ FF67%+
Sr. Mgt clearly comm. Direction for future	27%	32%	41%	
Agency continually improves services	59%	26%	15%	>20-74% NM48%+
Policies help provide	53%	34%	13%	1120-43%+ >20-68% SF39%+
services				Sr.41%+23%- Mgt43%+ FF70%+
Trust and confidence in Sr. Mgt	31%	33%	36%	HQ43%+ SF9%+ Sr.41%+ Mgt52%-
				FF22%-
Confidence and trust in supervisor	77%	14%	8%	SF91%+ NM66%+ FF88%+
My Job responsibilities well defined	80%	12%	9%	F-60%+ SF65%+ Mgt19%-
My written PD is accurate	69%	16%	15%	F-52%+ SF50%+
Understand p, p, rules that effect my job	75%	17%	7%	1120-65%+ >20-87%+ Mgt65%+22%-
My job makes good use of my skills and abilities	77%	14%	9%	
Job is interesting and	69%	17%	4%	0-10-80%+ >20-81% SF86%+ Sr.82%+
challenging				Mgt80%+ FF85%+
I can influence decisions that affect my job	58%	20%	22%	F-35%+ HQ68%+ SF74%+ Sr.68%+
I feel free to speak up and express my views	69%	14%	17%	SF86%+
Supervisor treats people fairly	78%	14%	8%	F-52%+ Sr. 59%+ NM68%+ FF89%+
I get adequate feedback	68%	19%	13%	Mgt56%+ FF84%+
Supervisor available when I need them	85%	11%	4%	SF96%+
SCFC provides EEO for	64%	21%	15%	F-48%+29%-HQ54%+ Sr.73%+
all				NM52%+25%- FF77%+
Values a diverse workforce	61%	29%	10%	F-48%+ Mgt50%+ FF73%+
Deals with harassment	47%	41%	12%	F-36%+27%- >10-64%+ SF35%+
and discrimination prompt and fair				FF58%+3%-
HR policies administer	39%	39%	22%	1120-26%+ >20-51%+ SF13%+
fairly and consistent				Mgt24%+35%- FF51%+11%-
Sr. Mgt. open to new ideas	29%	33%	38%	1120-49%- >20-19%- SF9%+ Mgt52%-
Confidence in the	39%	26%	35%	F-57%- 1120-27%+ 48%- >20-50%+
fairness of sr. mgt.				25%- SF18%+ Mgt28%+56%- FF19%-
Can believe what you hear from sr. mgt.	37%	29%	34%	F-23%+ 1120-49%-HQ47%+ SF22%+48%- Sr. 55%+22%- Mgt22%+
Sr. Mgt. aware of	35%	26%	39%	>20-27%-HQ56%+14%-SF22%+
problems at my level	33/0	20/0	33/0	Sr.54%+17%- Mgt57%-
Decisions made at	27%	32%	41%	F-11%+ 1120-54%- >20-37%+
appropriate level				SF0%+52%- Mgt54%- NM15%+
				FF41%+30%-

Sr. Mgt trust employees	49%	19%	32%	F-31%+43%- 1120-38%+ 46%- >20- 18%-HQ36%+47%- SF22%+43%- Sr.36%+46%- Mgt28%+46%- FF69%+15%-
Supervisor is honest and has integrity	87%	10%	3%	F-76%+ SF100%+
Supervisor helps me find solutions	86%	11%	3%	SF96%+
Supervisor respects employees	88%	8%	4%	F-75%+
Supervisor clearly communicates expectations	79%	13%	8%	F-68%+
Supervisor gives me open and honest feedback	81%	12%	7%	FF92%+
Supervisor trusts employees to do the job	87%	9%	4%	Sr.73%+18%- FF97%+